

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

A' 1. (Currently Amended) An aqueous ink composition for inkjet recording comprising:  
a dye J-aggregate having an average particle size of 2 to 200 nm, wherein the dye changes the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state; and  
water-dispersible polymer particles having an average particle size of 10 to 400 nm,  
wherein the amount of the water-dispersible polymer particles is from one to ten times as much  
as that of the J-aggregate.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:  
applying an ink composition for inkjet recording comprising a dye J-aggregate having  
an average particle size of 2 to 200 nm, wherein the dye changes the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  in 20 to 150 nm  
between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, and water-dispersible polymer  
particles having an average particle size of 10 to 400 nm, wherein the amount of the water-  
dispersible polymer particles is from one to ten times as much as that of the J-aggregate,  
to an image-receiving material comprising an image-receiving layer and a substrate,  
wherein the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:  
applying an ink composition to an image-receiving material, wherein the ink composition  
comprises a dye J-aggregate, wherein the dye changes the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  in 20 to 150 nm between a  
molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, the image-receiving material comprises an

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image-receiving layer and a substrate, and the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment; and

uniformly applying water-dispersible polymer particles to the image-receiving material simultaneously with or subsequently to the application of the ink composition.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

uniformly applying water-dispersible polymer particles to an image-receiving material, the image-receiving material comprising an image-receiving layer and a substrate, wherein the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment; and

applying an ink composition comprising a dye J-aggregate to the applied water-dispersible polymer particles during the state that the ink composition can pass through the polymer particles to reach the image-receiving material, wherein the dye changes the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state.

5. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the dye J-aggregate has an average particle size of 5 to 100 nm and the water-dispersible polymer particles have an average particle size of 20 to 200 nm.

6. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a pH between 4.5 and 10.0.

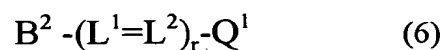
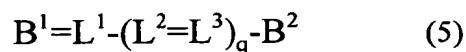
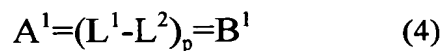
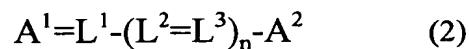
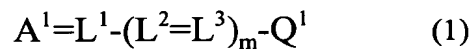
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7. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a surface tension of 20 to 60 mN/m.

8. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a viscosity not higher than 30 mPa·s.

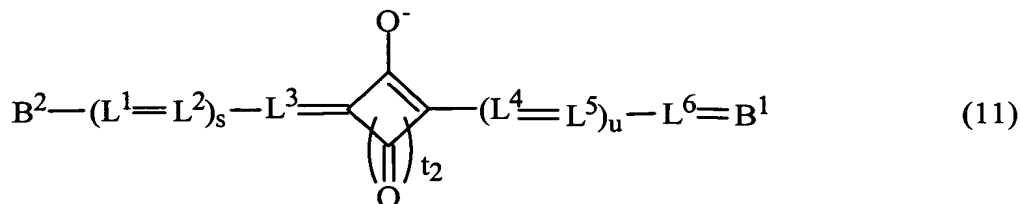
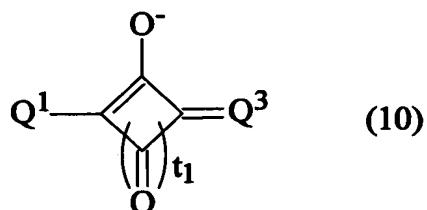
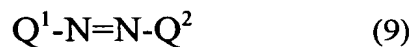
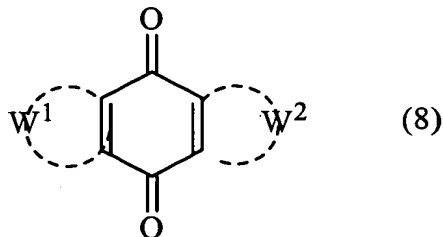
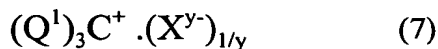
9. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polymer particles are a polymer latex.

10. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polymer particles are water-insoluble polymers each having at least one dissociable group.

11. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the dye for forming the J-aggregate is selected from the groups represented by the following formulae (1) to (11):



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wherein,  $A^1$  and  $A^2$  each represents an acid nucleus,  $A^3$  represents substituted or unsubstituted phenol, substituted or unsubstituted naphthol, or an acid nucleus,  $B^1$  represents a base nucleus,  $B^2$  represents the onium form of a base nucleus,  $Q^1$  and  $Q^2$  each independently represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group,  $Q^3$  represents the onium form of an aryl group or a heterocyclic ring,  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$ ,  $L^3$ ,  $L^4$ ,  $L^5$  and  $L^6$  each represents a methine group, m, s and u represents an integer of 0, 1 or 2, n and p each represent an integer between 0 and 3, q represents

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an integer between 0 and 4,  $r$ ,  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  each represents an integer of 1 or 2,  $X^y$  represents an anion,  $y$  represents an integer of 1 or 2, and  $W^1$  and  $W^2$  each independently represents an atomic group needed to complete a five- or six-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic group.

12. (Original) The image forming method according to claim 2, wherein the inorganic white pigment is a synthetic amorphous silica.

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